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Message Text

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ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:SMCCALL:EJQ
APPROVED BY S/MS:MDSHULMAN
S/S- DANDERSON
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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SUBJECT: BESSMERTNYKH-SHULMAN MEETING MAY 29

REF; STATE 136059

1. IN ADDITION TO POINTS REPORTED REFTEL, ON PENETRATION MATTER BESSMERTNYKH READ THE FOLLOWING FROM A RUSSIAN LANGUAGE NONPAPER WHICH HE DID NOT HAND OVER.

1. BEGIN QUOTE. IN THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS THERE WERE FOUND IN SOVIET INSTALLATIONS IN THE U.S. MORE THAN 50 VARIOUS SPECIAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES WHICH WERE USED FOR LISTENING TO CONVERSATIONS HELD IN BUILDINGS AND OVER TELE-PHONES.

--1977: A SPECIAL CABLE WAS DISCOVERED, AND A SPECIAL DEVICE, WHICH WAS CONNECTED TO THE INTERNAL TELEPHONE SYSTEM
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AT THE COUNTRY RESIDENCE OF THE AMBASSADOR AT PIONEER POINT.

--1975: IN THE BUILDING OCCUPIED BY THE SOVIET TRADE MISSION IN THE U.S., ON CONNECTICUT AVENUE, SEVERAL RADIO TRANSMITTERS WERE DISCOVERED, DESIGNED FOR LISTENING TO CONVERSATIONS IN WORKING OFFICES, INCLUDING THE OFFICE OF THE TRADE REPRESENTATIVE HIMSELF. EARLIER, SEVERAL

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SPECIAL PREAMPLIFIED MICROPHONES WERE FOUND IN THE FORMER TRADE OFFICE BUILDING AT 1511 16TH STREET, N. W. (THESE WERE FOUND WHEN THE SOVIETS WERE MOVING OUT OF THAT BUILDING).

--1973 AND 1974: IN THE BUILDING OF THE SOVIET CONSULATE GENERAL AT SANFRANCISCO, THERE WERE FOUND SEVERAL RADIO TRANSMITTERS, PREAMPLIFIED MICROPHONES AND TWO CABLES USED FOR LISTENING TO CONVERSATIONS IN THE OFFICES AND LIVING QUARTERS.

WE INFORMED U.S. AUTHORITIES AND THE U.S. SIDE REQUESTED NO PUBLICITY. THIS IS THE SAME WAY WE HAVE PROCEEDED IN CASES OF AGENTS, ACTING AT THE SPECIFIC REQUEST OF THE U.S. SIDE IN GIVING NO PUBLICITY. END QUOTE.

2. ON THE TWO JAILED SOVIETS, BESSMERTNYKH OBSERVED THAT GROMYKO HAD TOLD THE SECRETARY THAT THE CASE WAS POTENTIALLY VERY DANGEROUS TO U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS. IF NOT HANDLED IN A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE WAY, THE SOVIETS WOULD BE FORCED TO MAKE PUBLIC WHAT THE U.S. SPECIAL SERVICES WERE DOING IN MOSCOW. GROMYKO WOULD EXPECT THE SECRETARY TO HAVE A RESPONSE FROM THE U.S. SIDE WHEN THEY MEET MAY 31. BESSMERTNYKH SAID THAT ON MAY 26 TWO U.S. PERSONNEL HAD BEEN CAUGHT IN A CLOSED ZONE OF EAST GERMANY USING SPYING DE-
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VICES TO SPY ON A TRAINING ACTIVITY. THIS WAS JUST AN ILLUSTRATION THAT WE SHOULD ACT RESPONSIBLY IN SUCH MATTERS. HE HOPED THE U.S. WOULD CLOSE THE WHOLE THING.

3. SHULMAN SAID THE TWO WERE ENGAGED IN ESPIONAGE FOR WHICH THEIR UN HEADQUARTERS STATUS DID NOT EXEMPT THEM FROM ACTION UNDER THE LAW. THE USG COULD NOT COUNTENANCE SUCH USE OF THE UN. MATTERS WOULD BECOME MUCH WORSE IF THE PRACTICE CONTINUED. THIS WAS THE BROADER ISSUE: THE USE OF UN-BASED SPIES COULD CREATE AN EPISODE AND EXASCERBATE RELATIONS IN A WAY NEITHER OF US WANTED, CREATING STRONG FEELINGS.

4. BESSMERTNYKH OBSERVED THAT DOBRYNIN HAD MENTIONED FIVE OR SIX CASES OF AMERICANS USING DIPLOMATIC COVER IN MOSCOW. IF IT CAME TO PUBLICATION, WHICH HE HOPED IT WOULD NOT, THE U.S. INTELLIGENCE SERVICES WOULD NOT LOOK SO NICE. HE MENTIONED THE CASE LAST YEAR INVOLVING A SOVIET NAMED OGORODNIK WHICH HE SAID WAS VERY DIRTY AND WOULD BE DAMAGING TO THE U.S. AGENCY INVOLVED.

5. BESSMERTNYKH IN CONCLUDING SAID THAT THE TWO SOVIETS IN JAIL WERE IN A DIFFICULT AND WORRISOME POSITION. BAIL HAD

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BEEN SET AT 2 MILLION DOLLARS, WHICH IN ITSELF WAS A

PROVOCATION. UNOFFICIALLY HE WANTED TO ASK IF SOMETHING COULD BE DONE TO LOWER THE BAIL. SHULMAN NOTED WHAT HAD BEEN SAID, BUT GAVE NO ENCOURAGEMENT. THE USG WAS WATCHING THE CASE CLOSELY AND WOULD CONTINUE TO WATCH IT AT VARIOUS JUNCTURES IN THE PROCEEDINGS. BUT IT WAS IN THE HANDS OF THE COURT.

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